

HAYASHI, K E A 1
10/762,761

Amendments to the Claims

This Listing of Claims will replace all previous listing of claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A split flange capable of being fitted around a pipe having a flexible pipe body and a flared portion formed at an end of the pipe, the flared portion being capable of engaging with the split flange, the split flange comprising:

a plurality of arcuate flange members, which form a flange shape being defined by an outer periphery upon assembling;

two connecting portions provided at two end portions and formed integral with of each of the said plurality of arcuate flange members, the two connecting portions projecting radially out from the outer periphery,

wherein neighboring flange members among the said plurality of arcuate flange members are capable of being rotatably connected to each other at mating ~~respective connecting portions~~

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among the said connecting portions forming respective mating
connecting portions;

wherein one of said respective mating connecting portions
has a projection; and

wherein the other connecting portion of said respective
mating connecting portions has a connecting hole, said projection
being fitted into said connecting hole, whereby said respective
mating connecting portions are rotatably joined together.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Original) The split flange according to Claim
1, wherein the thickness of the connecting portions is set so
that a total thickness of the joined connecting portions is
substantially equal to a thickness of each of the flange members.

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Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The split flange according to Claim 1, wherein each of the flange member is provided at both end portions thereof with respective thin portions such that the neighboring flange members are capable of being connected to each other with mating respective thin portions thereof among the thin portions laminated, whereby a thickness of the split flange is constant in a circumferential direction upon assembling.

Claim 6. (Original) The split flange according to Claim 1, wherein the flange members have recesses for holding the flared portion of a pipe therein such that the recesses form a circumferential recess at an inner circumferential side face upon assembling.

Claim 7. (Original) The split flange according to Claim 1, wherein the flange members are formed in a substantially same shape.

Claim 8. (Original) The split flange according to Claim 7, wherein a number of the plurality of flange members is two.

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Claim 9. (Currently amended) A split flange comprising:

a plurality of first and second arcuate flange members,
which form a flange shape being defined by an outer periphery
upon assembling;

two connecting portions provided at two end portions of each
of the flange members, the two connecting portions formed
integral with and projecting radially out from the outer
periphery,

wherein ~~neighboring flange members among the~~ said first
arcuate flange members are is capable of being rotatably
connected with said second arcuate flange member each other at
respective mating respective connecting portions among the
connecting portions of the respective flange members;

wherein one of said respective mating connecting portions,
which is disposed on said first arcuate flange member, has a
projection; and

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wherein the other of said respective mating connecting portions, which is disposed on said second arcuate flange member, has a connecting hole, said projection being fitted into said connecting hole, whereby said respective mating connecting portions are rotatably joined together.

Claim 10. (Canceled).

Claim 11. (Canceled).